

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) A piston ring according to Claim 17, wherein the piston ring is disposed in a ring groove of a piston having a plurality of boundaries.
3. (Previously Presented) A piston ring according to Claim 17, wherein said outer peripheral face contacts a wall of a surrounding cylinder at said edge.
4. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 3, wherein a gap is defined between said outer peripheral face and the surrounding cylinder wall.
5. (Original) A piston ring according to Claim 4, wherein said projection generally minimizes said gap between said outer peripheral face and the wall of the cylinder.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) A piston ring according to Claim 19, wherein said outer surface of said generally rectangular projection is substantially parallel to a wall of a surrounding cylinder.
10. (Currently Amended) A piston ring according to Claim 19, wherein said rectangular projection defines a ledge extending radially from said outer peripheral face.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A piston ring according to Claim 18, wherein said projection defines a ledge extending radially from said outer peripheral face.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A piston ring for use with an internal combustion engine and a piston having a groove, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body including an upper surface, a lower surface, and an outer peripheral face, the outer peripheral face intersecting with the lower surface to define an edge, and the outer peripheral face including a projection extending radially outwardly from both of the outer peripheral face and along the upper surface;

wherein the projection is spaced at a predetermined distance from the edge defined by the intersection of the outer peripheral face and the lower surface;

wherein the projection includes an outer surface that is substantially parallel to a wall of a surrounding cylinder.

18. (Previously Presented) A piston ring disposed in a ring groove of a piston and surrounded by a wall of a cylinder for use with a combustion chamber, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body having generally parallel upper and lower surfaces disposed between inner and outer peripheral faces, the outer peripheral face being generally tapered to an edge such that the edge contacts the wall of the cylinder and defining a gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall; and

a projection extending radially outwardly from the outer peripheral face to reduce the gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall, the projection thereby reducing exposure of the outer peripheral face to the combustion chamber, the lower surface further including a generally

hook-shaped groove and the outer peripheral face defining the edge, wherein the edge extends radially outwardly farther than the projection;

wherein the projection includes an outer surface substantially parallel to the wall of the cylinder.

19. (Previously Presented) A piston ring for use with an internal combustion engine and a piston having a groove, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body including an upper surface, a lower surface, and an outer peripheral face, the outer peripheral face intersecting with the lower surface to define an edge, and the outer peripheral face including a projection extending radially outwardly from the outer peripheral face;

wherein the projection is spaced at a predetermined distance from the edge defined by the intersection of the outer peripheral face and the lower surface;

wherein the projection is generally rectangular and includes an outer surface.

20. (Previously Presented) A piston ring disposed in a ring groove of a piston and surrounded by a wall of a cylinder for use with a combustion chamber, the piston ring comprising:

a generally annular body having generally parallel upper and lower surfaces disposed between inner and outer peripheral faces, the outer peripheral face being generally tapered to an edge such that the edge contacts the wall of the cylinder and defining a gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall; and

a projection extending radially outwardly from the outer peripheral face to reduce the gap between the outer peripheral face and the wall, the projection thereby reducing exposure of the outer peripheral face to the combustion chamber, the lower surface further including a generally hook-shaped groove and the outer peripheral face defining the edge, wherein the edge extends radially outwardly farther than the projection, and the projection is generally rectangular.